

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 1410

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CS
SUBJECT: CARAZO QUOTE ON EXTRADITION

REF: STATE 078573

1. EMBOFF RAISED SUBJECT OF CARAZO QUOTE ON EXTRADITION
IN RIDING ARTICLE WITH CARAZO'S SON, MARIO, MARCH 29. YOUNG
CARAZO, A TALENTED LAWYER IN HIS MID-20S, SERVES AS ONE OF
HIS FATHER'S KEY ADVISORS. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS
NOT PRESENT FOR RIDING INTERVIEW, HE HAS BEEN PRESENT FOR
OTHERS WITH FOREIGN PRESS AND KNOWS WHAT HIS FATHER IS
SAYING ABOUT VESCO.

2. MARIO CARAZO SAYS THAT THE STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT
VESCO "WOULD NOT BE EXTRADITED TO US" MUST BE UNDERSTOOD
IN CONTEXT THAT THEY DO NOT EXPECT US UNDER PRESENT OR CUR-
RENTLY FORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES TO MAKE AN EXTRADITION
REQUEST FOR VESCO. WITHOUT AN EXTRADITION REQUEST FROM
THE US, CARAZO POINTED OUT, OBVIOUSLY VESCO CANNOT AND WOULD NOT BE
"EXTRADITED TO THE US".

3. RE THE AMERICAN PROBLEM/COSTA RICAN PROBLEM QUOTE,
CARAZO SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S EMPHASIS ON THE
VESCO MATTER IS THAT IT IS FOR HIM FIRST A COSTA RICAN
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PROBLEM. CARAZO SAID THAT THIS IS IN DIRECT CONTRAST TO
PRESIDENT ODUBER, WHO CONSIDERS VESCO A US PROBLEM AND
NOT A COSTA RICAN PROBLEM (SEE RIDING ARTICLE) AND USES
SUCH LOGIC TO JUSTIFY DOING NOTHING TO GET VESCO OUT OF
COSTA RICA. MARIO CARAZO UNDERLINED HIS FATHER'S PUB-
LIC STATEMENTS THAT VESCO'S PRESENCE IS DAMAGING TO COSTA
RICA'S DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, ITS IMAGE, AND ITS MORAL

FABRIC. IT IS FOR THESE REASONS, HE CONCLUDED THAT VESCO IS COSTA RICA'S PROBLEM, THAT CARAZO IS DETERMINED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, AND THAT THE "AMERICAN PROBLEM" -WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS BRINGING VESCO TO JUSTICE IN THE US - IS "SEPARATE".

4. CARAZO VOLUNTEERED THAT THE APPEAL AND POSSIBLE FUTURE CRIMINAL TRIAL PROCESS IN THE RECHNITZER CASE MAY PUT A CRIMP IN THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S PLAN TO OUST VESCO IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MAY 8 INAUGURATION. THERE IS NOW THE QUESTION OF AN ACTIVE JUDICIARY PROCESS AND THE POSTING OF BAIL, YOUNG CARAZO NOTED. HE ADDED THAT THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S LEGAL TEAM IS STILL WORKING ON THIS MATTER.

5. IN MARCH 29 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, MININTERIOR-DESIGNATE ECHEVERRIA ECHOED MARIO CARAZO'S OBSERVATIONS ABOUT HOW THE RECHNITZER APPEAL NOW COMPLICATES CARAZO'S PLAN TO EXPEL VESCO.
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